
THURSTON COUNTY

Washington State Grange Parking Lot, 1002 Capitol Way S, Olympia
ARCO 4435, 402 Sleater Kinney Road, Lacey
Diamond Parking Lot/Chevron 9-0292, 704 Capitol Way S, Olympia
Intercity Transit/Treasure Chest, 222 State Ave., Olympia
Jackpot Station 371, 1802 Harrison Ave. NW, Olympia
Intercity Transit/525 South Pattison, 526 Pattison St. SE, Olympia
Ken's Tire, 421 4th Ave. E, Olympia
Olympia Service Center, 2711 Pacific Ave., Olympia
Tenino Service Center, Garfield & Hodgen St., Tenino
Qwest Corporation/2817 Martin Way, 2817 Martin Way, Olympia
East Olympia Grocery, 8245 Rich Road SE, Olympia

Facility Site ID# 1297152
Facility Site ID# 1851774
Facility Site ID# 5717399
Facility Site ID# 17891797
Facility Site ID# 32538917
Facility Site ID# 42113995
Facility Site ID# 51544116
Facility Site ID# 66757978
Facility Site ID# 70971197
Facility Site ID# 88728931
Facility Site ID# 95968867

Contact:

Brad Zulewski
Thurston County Public Health and Social Services
360/ 867-2584
zulewsb@co.thurston.wa.us

NEWS & NOTES

Ecology needs wellhead elevation and groundwater level data

Starting on June 22, 2011, Ecology will roll out new templates and features to the agency's Environmental Information Management (EIM) database.

These templates and features will allow you to enter wellhead elevation and groundwater level data into EIM. EIM can then calculate groundwater elevations across the state. They are used for a variety of purposes, including for assessing water resources and contaminated site cleanup. These new features will help Ecology to capture accurate and useful environmental data.

Groundwater "data submittal" and "search" tools have now been added. These new tools will allow you to enter wellhead elevation and groundwater level data. You will also have the capability to query and map the data.

The core issue for this new EIM database rollout is capturing water level information. Previously, Ecology has not required users to enter that information into EIM. However, in the future, if you measure a water level in a well, then Ecology would like you to enter that information into EIM. Most of this new protocol will apply to Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program. Per Policy 840-1, you are required to submit data (electronically) to EIM. This also applies to Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) sites.

If you are entering data into the EIM database, then you must now report a wellhead elevation (e.g. top of casing, etc.) in addition to horizontal (X,Y) coordinates (e.g. longitude / latitude) for all wells ("resource protection wells," WAC 173-160-400). The wellhead elevation is needed for groundwater elevations.

Please use the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88) when you report elevations. This is important because groundwater elevation data is less useful if a common vertical datum is not used. Ecology recognizes and understands that for many sites, such as gas stations, use of a site-specific or "local" datum was a common past practice. However, after June 22, 2011, you will not be allowed to enter "local" datum elevations to EIM. You must either survey to the NAVD 88 or other specified major datum.

Just to be clear, Ecology does not expect you to go back out and re-survey "old" wells. These new database EIM features and requirements are not retroactive. However, if you plan to complete and drill new wells, then please collect all relevant information, such as water depth and wellhead elevation.

If you have questions about entering data to EIM, please contact Kristin Carmack at 509/ 454-4243 or Chris Neumiller at 360/ 407-6258. If you have questions about the NAVD 88 vertical datum, please contact Charles San Juan at 360/ 407-7191.